

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A multimedia apparatus comprising:
a mass storage device to store uncompressed and compressed multimedia content; and
compression logic executed by a processor, said compression logic configured to:
store uncompressed multimedia content in an interim multimedia buffer on said mass storage device,
compress said uncompressed multimedia content stored in said interim multimedia buffer as a background task to generate compressed multimedia content responsive to a user request to record said multimedia content, ~~and~~
store said compressed multimedia content in long term multimedia buffer on said mass storage device, and
automatically stream said uncompressed multimedia content remaining in said interim multimedia buffer directly to said multimedia rendering device once said compressed multimedia content stored in said long term multimedia buffer has been streamed to said rendering device.
2. (original) The multimedia apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said compression logic is further configured to:
stream said compressed multimedia content from said long term multimedia buffer to a decompression module and then to a multimedia rendering device responsive to a user request to view said multimedia content.

3. (canceled).
4. (original) The multimedia apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said multimedia content is broadcast video content.
5. (original) The multimedia apparatus as in claim 4 wherein said broadcast video content is transmitted from a cable television provider.
6. (original) The multimedia apparatus as in claim 4 wherein said broadcast video content is a Webcast transmitted over a data network.
- 7-9. (canceled).
10. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for decreasing the cost of a multimedia storage device comprising:
 - storing multimedia content in an interim multimedia buffer on a mass storage device before compressing said multimedia content;
 - compressing said multimedia content stored in said interim multimedia buffer as a background task to generate compressed multimedia content responsive to a user request to record said multimedia content; ~~and~~
 - storing said compressed multimedia content in long term multimedia buffer on said mass storage device; and

automatically streaming said uncompressed multimedia content remaining in said interim multimedia buffer directly to said multimedia rendering device once said compressed multimedia content stored in said long term multimedia buffer has been streamed to said rendering device, if any uncompressed multimedia content remains in said interim data buffer when said long term storage buffer is empty.

11. (original) The method as in claim 10 further comprising streaming said compressed multimedia content from said long term multimedia buffer to a decompression module and then to a multimedia rendering device responsive to a user request to view said multimedia content.

12. (canceled).

13. (original) The method as in claim 10 wherein said multimedia content is broadcast video content.

14. (original) The method as in claim 13 wherein said broadcast video content is transmitted from a cable television provider.

15. (original) The method as in claim 13 wherein said broadcast video content is a Webcast transmitted over a data network.

16-53. (canceled)

54. (new) A multimedia apparatus comprising:

a mass storage device to store compressed multimedia content; and

compression logic executed by a processor, said compression logic

configured to:

lightly compress multimedia content in real time using an intra-frame encoding algorithm,

store said lightly compressed multimedia content in an interim multimedia buffer within the mass storage device,

transcode said lightly compressed multimedia content stored in said interim multimedia buffer as a background task to generate compressed multimedia content using an encoding algorithm that implements both intra-frame and inter-frame encoding responsive to a user request to record said multimedia content, and

store said compressed multimedia content in long term multimedia buffer on said mass storage device.

55. (new) The multimedia apparatus as in claim 54 wherein said intra-frame encoding algorithm is an adaptive differential pulse code modulation ("ADPCM") algorithm.

56. (new) The multimedia apparatus as in claim 54 wherein said intra-frame encoding algorithm is a digital video ("DV25") algorithm.

57. (new) The multimedia apparatus as in claim 54 wherein said inter-frame encoding algorithm is a moving picture experts group (MPEG) algorithm.

58. (new) A computer-implemented method for multimedia compression comprising:

lightly compressing multimedia content using an intra-frame encoding algorithm;

storing said lightly compressed multimedia content in an interim multimedia buffer within the mass storage device;

transcoding said lightly compressed multimedia content stored in said interim multimedia buffer as a background task to generate compressed multimedia content using an encoding algorithm that implements both intra-frame and inter-frame encoding responsive to a user request to record said multimedia content; and

storing said compressed multimedia content in long term multimedia buffer on said mass storage device.

59. (new) The method as in claim 58 wherein said intra-frame encoding algorithm comprises an adaptive differential pulse code modulation ("ADPCM") algorithm.

60. (new) The method as in claim 58 wherein said intra-frame encoding algorithm comprises a digital video ("DV25") algorithm.

61. (new) The method as in claim 58 wherein said inter-frame encoding algorithm is a moving picture experts group (MPEG) algorithm.